

Mason Matters!

SPRING 2018

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross

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A Message From Supervisor Gross

Special Interest Articles:

- **Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concerts**
- **Document Shredding Event**
- **VDOT Projects in Mason District**
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- **Budget Town Meeting March 15**

Dear Mason District Neighbor:

Welcome to the Spring 2018 print edition of Mason Matters! There is useful information in this newsletter about community events across Mason District, including the popular George Mason Regional Library book sale in April, and the Spotlight by Starlight free summer concerts at Mason District Park and Ossian Hall Park, beginning in June. You can fill your calendar quickly with community events related to animals, expired medications, tax help, cultural opportunities, and volunteering. There is something in this newsletter for everyone!

The new Fairfax County Executive, Bryan J. Hill, started work on January 2, and jumped immediately into budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2019. Each February, the county executive releases a proposed budget for the coming fiscal year that outlines the services provided by the county, new needs and programs to be considered, and the amount of the school transfer. The Board of Supervisors then spends a couple of months reviewing the budget recommendations and hearing from the community before making changes that, upon adoption of the budget, will support the priorities and needs of our vast county. The **Mason District Budget Town Meeting**, featuring County Executive Hill and Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, will be held on **Thursday, March 15, beginning at 7 p.m.**, in the Main Community Room of the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. A question and answer period will follow the formal budget presentation, and I look forward to seeing you.



As I write this, the proposed FY2019 budget has not been released, but the specific details will be available by the time you receive this newsletter. Public education remains a county priority, and more than half of the county budget will be transferred to the Fairfax County Public School system for its operations. Public safety, human services, the environment, parks, libraries, and other county services important to our quality of life must be funded, and the county's AAA bond rating maintained. All of that depends on taxpayer support, and the work of 12,000 county employees – police officers, fire and rescue, social workers, and wastewater treatment plant operators. Whether the county executive or the mechanic who ensures that school buses start on cold winter mornings, county employees are working for us 24/7. They deserve our thanks, and fair compensation and benefits.

The police department's pilot program for body-worn cameras will begin in early March. The Mason District Station has been selected to participate in the pilot, which is expected to last three months, with a possible extension. The American University will provide analysis of the completed program before a decision is made for countywide implementation.

The Mason District Land Use Committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month to review and make recommendations about local land use applications. Their meetings are open to the public, and the monthly agenda can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/mason-district-land-use-and-development.

The Art in the Mason District Governmental Center program features original watercolors by local artist Margaret Reynolds. The beauty of nature is the driving force behind her work. The show will begin on February 20, and run until April 20, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mason District Supervisor, and I hope you will let me know whenever my staff and I can be of assistance to you. My office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and we are ready to assist with any county-related matter.

LOOK FOR **MASON MATTERS!** THE TELEVISION SHOW
on Cable Channel 16
EVERY THURSDAY AT 7 P.M.
EVERY FRIDAY & SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M.
DAILY ON THE WEB AT WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/MASON



Spotlight by Starlight Summer Concert Schedule

Mason District Park

Spotlight by Starlight is a free summer concert series presented by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Friends of Mason District Park. All performances at the Newton W. Edwards Amphitheatre at Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike in Annandale, are on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday beginning at 7:30 p.m. Performances for children on Saturday (not listed) begin at 10 a.m. Shows are cancelled if it is raining. If inclement weather is in the forecast, call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to scheduled performance for cancellation updates. The schedule is subject to change. For a complete and updated listing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances after May 1, 2018.

JUNE

- 17 City of Fairfax "Concert Band" (Concert Band)
- 20 The Capital Focus Jazz Band (Youth Jazz Band)
- 22 Ron Holloway Band (Funk Jam Groove Blues R&B)
- 24 Ocean Orchestra (Celtic)
- 27 Washington Balalaika Orchestra (Russian)
- 29 Lori Williams and Friends (Jazz)

JULY

- 1 NOVA Annandale Symphony Orchestra (Summer Pops)
- 4 No Performance
- 6 Harpeth Rising (Chambergrass)
- 8 Padmarani Rasiah Cantu (Indian Dance)
- 11 Lena Seikaly Quartet (Jazz)
- 13 Eilen Jewell (Alt-country)
- 15 Tom Paxton with The Don Juans (Folk)
- 18 Shenandoah Run (Folk)
- 20 The Revelers (Swamp Pop)
- 22 The Capitol Steps (Satirical Revue)
- 25 The Grandsons (Rockabilly)
- 27 Chris Urquiaga Band (RB/Latin)
- 29 The Hall Brothers (Rock and Roll)

AUGUST

- 1 Kings Park Band (Concert Band)
- 3 Gold Top County Ramblers (String Rock/Bluegrass)
- 5 Andrew Acosta Band (Roots/Americana)
- 8 Billy Coulter (Roots Rock/Pop)
- 10 Frankie Addison Band (R&B)
- 12 Mystic Warriors (Andean Dance/Music)
- 15 The Back Roads Band (Country)
- 17 DuPont Brass (Soul)
- 19 United States Air Force - Airmen of Note (Big Band Jazz)
- 22 United States Navy - Sea Chanters (Chorale)
- 24 Tom Principato Band (Blues)

Document Shredding Event

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host a **Document Shredding** event on **Saturday, April 28**, from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. For more information and additional locations, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/document-shredding, or call 703-324-5230; TTY 711.



Ossian Hall Park

Featuring music and dance from around the world, Ossian Hall Park is located at 7900 Heritage Drive in Annandale. All performances are scheduled for Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or a lawn chair.

JUNE

- 16 Chinese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)
- 23 Indonesian Cultural Heritage Night - Santi Budaya (Dance/Music)
- 30 Taiwanese Cultural Heritage Night (Dance/Music)

JULY

- 7 The Washington Toho Koto Society (Music)
- 14 City of Fairfax Band - Alte Kameraden German Band
- 21 Bolivian Cultural Heritage Night - Tradiciones Bolivianas (Dance/Music)
- 28 Peruvian Cultural Heritage Night - Centro Cultural Peru (Dance/Music)

AUGUST

- 4 Bavarian Night "Alt Washingtonia Schuhplattler Verein"
- 11 Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Night - Prelude Chamber Ensemble (Music)
- 18 Irish Cultural Heritage Night - Irish Breakfast Band (Dance/Music)

VDOT Projects in Mason District



Modular Roundabout Coming to Ravensworth Road

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will test a modular mini roundabout at the intersection of Ravensworth Road at Jayhawk Street in Annandale, and evaluate its function to provide safety and traffic flow improvement through the intersection. FHWA identified this intersection as a candidate for the pilot project because it meets thresholds for a traffic signal, and the roundabout can be installed without relocating utilities, drainage, or disruption to the existing pavement. VDOT plans to install the roundabout and modular islands this spring. Two weeks prior to commencing the work, VDOT will place message boards to notify the public about the start of construction. For more information about the project, log-on to www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/ravensworth_roundabout.asp, or call 703-259-2413.



Wilson Boulevard over Arlington Boulevard Bridge Rehabilitation Project

VDOT staff will host a **public information meeting** in **early April** to present information and answer questions about their project to rehabilitate the one-way bridge linking the eastbound Route 50/ Arlington Boulevard service road (crossing Route 7) to eastbound Wilson Boulevard in the Seven Corners area of Mason District. Advertisement for construction of the bridge is planned for fall 2018, and construction is anticipated to begin in March 2019, with completion in November 2019. For more information about the project, and for **details** about the **April** public information **meeting**, log-on to www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/wilson_over_50.asp, or call 703-259-3256.

Land Use News

Lincolnia Planning District Task Force Proposes a CBC -

The Task Force, in Phase Two, is recommending to designate a portion of the Lincolnia Planning District as a Community Business Center (CBC). The recommendation includes a revitalization area designation within the CBC boundary. Phase Three of the study would review substantive changes to Comprehensive Plan guidance for the potential CBC, and for the greater Lincolnia Planning District. For additional information and updates, log-on to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/lincolnia.

Paving and Restriping Coming to Mason District Roads -

The Virginia Department of Transportation and Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff will discuss paving and restriping at a community information meeting on **Tuesday, March 13, 7 - 8:30 p.m.** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Residents may submit comments about general traffic safety concerns on the roads scheduled for paving until **Friday, March 30**. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping, or call 703-877-5600; TTY 711.

Pedestrian and Transit Improvements Continue in Mason District -

Several sidewalk projects are underway, or in the design stage, and improvements to bus shelters serving both Fairfax Connector and WMATA routes will be underway this spring. Sidewalk segments include Graham Road to Woodley Lane, Westcott Street and Annandale Road, and Patrick Henry to Olin Drive along Route 50. Watch for replacement bus shelters on eastbound Edsall Road and Sullivan Place, and southbound Beryl Road at Paula Road in Alexandria. Design work has begun for shelters at northbound John Marr Drive at Tom Davis Drive, and eastbound Little River Turnpike at Backlick Road in Annandale.



Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross meets with the Webelos II Cub Scouts from Pack 115. Their meeting with Supervisor Gross helped the Cub Scouts complete their requirement to learn about local government.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie Gagermeier

Native Seedling Sale Features Deer Tolerant Species

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is featuring a collection of trees and shrubs that are tolerant of deer browse. The Bare-Root Shrub and Small Tree package includes Witchhazel, False Indigobush, Serviceberry, Silky Dogwood, and Spicebush for \$16.95. The Bare-Root Trees package includes Redbud, Pawpaw, and Shortleaf Pine \$11.95. Online payments by credit or debit card (if necessary, orders may be placed by phone and checks accepted).

A full, non-refundable payment must accompany **orders received by Wednesday, April 11**, or while supplies last. A confirmation receipt will be provided, and directions to the pickup site at the Fairfax County Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road in Annandale. Orders may be **picked up on Friday, April 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., or Saturday, April 21, 9 a.m. - noon**. To order, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale, call 703-324-1460; TTY 711, or send an e-mail to Maria.Harwood@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Coming Attractions

- A low-cost **Rabies Vaccination Clinic** is set for **Sunday, March 18, 12 to 2 p.m.** for dogs and cats at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike. For more information and a complete schedule, call 703-830-1100, or visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics.
- A **Dialogue through Poetry and Art** will be held on **Thursday, March 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** at Bailey's Elementary School Cafeteria, 6111 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy an evening of dialogue poetry, art, and a Latin American dinner. For more information and to RSVP, contact Norma Lopez at 703-533-5475.
- **Culmore Multicultural Day 2018** will be held on **Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at the Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive in Falls Church. Enjoy live music, folkloric dancers, children's activities, and more. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/culmore-day, or call the Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8514; TTY 711.
- The Friends of the **George Mason Regional Library** will co-host the popular, **semi-annual book sale** on **Thursday, April 19, 3 - 9 p.m.; Friday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sunday, April 22, 12 - 5 p.m.** More than 50,000 books, movies, and music CDs are featured. The book sale will be at the library, 7001 Little River Turnpike in Annandale. For more information, call 703-813-6616 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/george-mason-regional.
- The **DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day** is set for **Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, and unused or expired prescription medicines may be dropped off at all Fairfax County Police Stations. For more information and locations near you, visit the **DEA Web site after April 1** at www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.
- The Annandale (Station 8) and Bailey's Crossroads (Station 10) Volunteer Fire Departments invite you to an **All You Can Eat Crab Leg and Shrimp Feast** on **Saturday, April 28, 2 - 5 p.m.** at the Annandale Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7128 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Tickets available online at www.avfd.org or www.bxrvfd.org. For more information, call 703-941-1328, or send an e-mail to crabfeast@avfd.org.

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Mason Matters! The Newsletter to Keep YOU Informed

Community Notes

➤ AARP volunteers currently are providing free tax help to residents until **Tuesday, April 17** at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. **The schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays 1- 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** (No Tax-Aide service on President's Day, Monday, February 19, 2018.) All returns will be filed electronically. A **Travel Team** is available to assist with preparation of forms **for residents with disabilities**, who cannot leave their homes, by calling 571-766-6268. For more information about AARP Tax Aide, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-227-7669.

➤ The spring 2018 Culmore Cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to Noon**. Join your friends in cleaning our Culmore neighborhood. For more information, please visit Culmore Cleanup Day on Facebook, www.facebook.com/culmorecleanupday, or contact Supervisor Gross' office by e-mail at mason@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-256-7717.

➤ Serving our community since 1964, the Alexandria-Lincolnia Lions Club is welcoming new members every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Fratelli Italian Restaurant, 410 South Van Dorn Street in Alexandria. For more information and to RSVP to attend a meeting, call Daniel Duncan at 703-503-1390.

➤ The Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) is a volunteer organization serving neighbors in dire need of assistance, including furniture. Please call 703-256-9513 and ACCA will pick up your donated furniture and give you a tax deductible receipt. The most needed items are mattresses/box springs (single, double, or queen size) sofas (not sleeper types), kitchen/dining room tables, and chairs, chests of drawers/dressers, coffee tables, end tables, and microwaves.

Mason District's Budget Town Meeting

Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m.

Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room
6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale

Supervisor Gross will introduce our new County Executive Bryan J. Hill, and welcome back Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro, who will answer questions about the proposed FY 2019 Fairfax County Budget. Information about the Fairfax County Budget, including a revenue forecast, economic indicators, and a budget timeline, is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

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